

Orbis Diagnostics and Green Cross Health partner to make immunity testing for Covid-19 available in pharmacies

New Zealanders wanting to know how protected they are against Covid-19 infection will soon be able to have their immunity levels measured at a local Unichem or Life pharmacy.

Today, New Zealand biotech company Orbis Diagnostics has announced a strategic agreement with leading primary healthcare provider, Green Cross Health to make routine health testing easily and conveniently available.

"This agreement is a significant milestone in our strategy to bring high-quality diagnostic testing out of the lab and give New Zealanders more accessible, time-critical information about their health," said Orbis Diagnostics CEO, Damian Camp.

"The first test we are offering is a quantitative immunity test for Covid-19 which will enable Kiwis to understand the level of protection they have against infection. By measuring immunity, individuals can assess personal risk based on their health status.

"The emergence of the Omicron variant has shown the importance of getting the Covid-19 booster vaccination and even though it's still possible to get infected, knowing how protected we are can be helpful to figure out what we think is safe to do, what's not, and what precautions we can take," said Mr Camp.

From a finger-prick sample of blood, Orbis' technology platform can quickly and accurately measure a person's antibody concentration as a result of vaccination. This information is correlated to risk of infection to indicate how protected the individual is against Covid-19.

Mr Camp adds "As an individual, knowing your risk of infection is going to be useful when weighing up decisions such as booking overseas travel, visiting elderly family, going to the gym or to the movies. It is particularly relevant as we seek to optimise our long-term protection against Covid-19, particularly as our international borders open up and we head into winter."

Group Chief Operating Officer, Green Cross Health, Alison Van Wyk says "The partnership with Orbis to provide point of need diagnostic testing to customers supports our strategy of delivering accessible, convenient and affordable healthcare to enhance the health outcomes of our local communities.

"A key driver for introducing this technology into our pharmacy network in the very near future is its ability to provide accurate health diagnostics that allow consumers to make informed decisions with confidence.

"This technology is really powerful for many people, especially as we seek to optimise our protection against severe illness. While the current focus is measuring immunity to Covid-19, the future applications for the technology are numerous and will have a significant impact on how healthcare is delivered in the future," said Ms Van Wyk.

Mr Camp adds "We have robust clinical data to prove that our platform has laboratory accuracy and can identify individuals with a strong, medium and waning immune response to the Covid-19 vaccine. We will also be able to quickly adapt our technology as new vaccinations are produced to fight future variants of the virus.

"Importantly, this strategic agreement with Green Cross Health underpins our ambition to deliver Orbis' technology which will be a game-changer for New Zealanders seeking accurate and timely information about their health, and we will be developing additional types of medical tests this year said Mr Camp.

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About Orbis Diagnostics:

Orbis Diagnostics is a next-generation point of care diagnostics company that is transforming community-based healthcare. Powered by microfluidic and photonic innovations, Orbis' automated desktop system successfully miniaturises the medical lab to delivering real-time, actionable test results from a finger-prick of blood. Leaders in the primary healthcare sector are working with Orbis to deploy its technology and support time-critical healthcare decision-making at the point of care. The first test available is a quantitative Covid-19 antibody test that measures a person's individual immune response from vaccination or prior infection. Orbis is developing a comprehensive portfolio of diagnostic solutions that will improve health outcomes by making routine blood testing more convenient and accessible.

About Green Cross Health:

About Green Cross Health Green Cross Health (NZX: GXH) is a trusted New Zealand primary healthcare provider with multidisciplinary healthcare teams with the purpose of working together to support healthier communities. New Zealand owned and operated, Green Cross Health operates under branded groups Unichem and Life Pharmacies, The Doctors medical centres, Total Care Health community nursing services and Access Community Health to provide support, care and advice to diverse New Zealand communities